Touch Me Again story 6
STARS ☆ SPICA ☆ SPECTRE

スターズ スピカ スペクトル
STARS SPICA SPECTRE
HEY KIJI,
DO YOU REMEMBER OSAKA FROM OUR SEMINAR?
YOU MEAN THAT PALE, STICK-THIN, DEATH-GOD LOOKING GUY?
YEAH,
HE DIED IN AN ACCIDENT FOUR DAYS AGO!
DID YOU KNOW?
RATTLE
I'VE KNOWN ABOUT THAT SINCE FOUR DAYS AGO.
YEAH.

IN THESE FOUR DAYS THERE HAS BEEN A GHOST IN MY ROOM.
SLAM
I'M HOOOME.
スターズ スピカ スペクトル
STARS SPICA SPECTRE

Thud.
THAT'S FOUR DAYS IN A ROW ALREADY.
Sigh
Shuck
Yawn
WOAH
YOU'RE STILL HERE HUH, OSAKA.
Step
YOU'VE GOT LEGS* AND YOU'RE WEARING WHAT YOU NORMALLY DO.
I GUESS EVEN IN DEATH YOU'RE STILL GOING FOR THE ALL BLACK LOOK.
* TL NOTE: THE JAPANESE BELIEVE THAT GHOSTS DON'T HAVE FEET.
.....
THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU I THOUGHT YOU'D BROKEN INTO MY HOUSE, SINCE YOU WERE JUST STANDING THERE SO NATURALLY
.....
hahaa
DRAW!
Osaka and I...

I FEEL LIKE I'M SO USED TO YOU BEING THERE EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A GHOST
...HEY, WOULD YOU STOP GAPING LIKE A FISH?
Are you trying to say some thing?
Weren't very close at all
Osaka was the quiet kind and wasn't friendly with anyone
Shrug
Matter
ALTHOUGH HEARING ABOUT YOUR DEATH TODAY STILL MADE ME SHUDDER.
BRUSHES
...I MEAN, YOU'RE THERE BUT I CAN'T EVEN TOUCH YOU.
WOOSH
BRUSHES
HOW SCARY
HAHA...
I did touch him, only once a long time ago
Shudder

He had stick-thin limbs and a body so lean his rib-cage showed.
He always wore black and his presence stuck out like a sore thumb in a crowd.
OSAKA.
He had the sharpest gaze
and a hoarse voice with a unique quality.
ARE YOU ANGRY AT ME?!

I did touch him. Only once, a long time ago.
FOR WHAT I DID THAT TIME?!
WE WEREN'T VERY CLOSE AT ALL.
Go ahead.
SORRY FOR INTRUDING!
I NEED TO BORROW YOUR BATH-ROOM.
Sure I
I'm hoome!
I think I'm drunk!
SLAM

HUH
I'M LOUSY AT CONVERSATIONS
AND I'VE GOT AN ACCENT PLUS, I DON'T REALLY HAVE A NICE VOICE
You both come for the set together parties often.
WHY DON'T YOU TALK MUCH ANYWAY?
HEY OSAKA, YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY ENTERTAINING WHEN YOU'RE DRUNK
AND LOUD TOO
I SEE.
IT'S A BORING PLACE.
SHIKOKU.
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
HEY,
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU SWING BOTH WAYS?

SURPRISED
FOR EX-AMPLE, SOMEONE LIKE ME?
Haha.
YOU CAN DO IT WITH GUYS TOO?
EH?
EH?
WAIT-
SERI-OUSLY?
HAHA.
JERKS UP
AH.
YOU GOT NERVOUS!
Haha.
AH!
WHAT ARE YOU
BLUSH

shudder
AH
AH
Slide
OSAKA?
DO YOU FEEL ANY-THING IF I DO THIS TO YOU,
THUD
KIJI!
His stick-thin limbs and anorexic body,
AHH
UMPH
CREAK
NNN
PANT
Shudder
His all-black figure
and passion-clouded gaze
RUSH
UH
shudder
Slide

AHHH
!!
SPURT
HIS INTOXICATING HOARSE SHRILL VOICE...
WHACK
CREAK
AH,
OSA
Ka
SHUFFLE
ORSH
IT WAS NO LONGER A HARMLESS PRANK.
Thump
Thump
Thump
.....
lick

I did a terrible thing to him,
but
the weight of what I had done only hit me after I woke from my drunk stupor.
ARE YOU STILL MAD AT ME?
.....
WELL EVEN IF YOU ARE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACT LIKE THIS...!
...WHAT'S WITH YOU? SAY SOMETHING! I CAN'T HEAR YOU AT ALL,
OSAKA!
Flutter, flutter

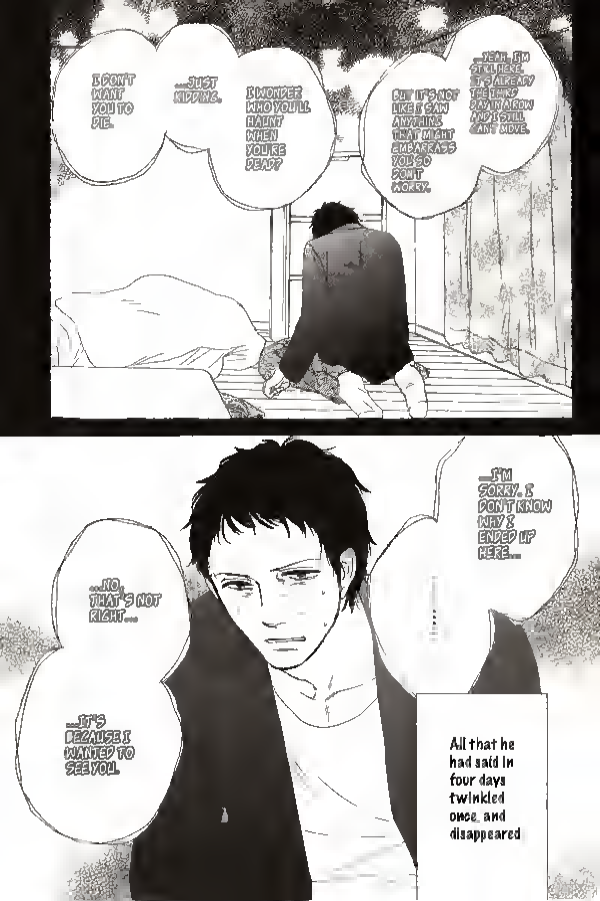
IF YOU WANT TO CONDEMN ME FOR IT, GO AHEAD
BUT!
WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO WAS ALWAYS LOOKING AT ME FIRST...!
EH?
HE MOVED
...
KUN.
KUN
EH?
AH!
RATTLE

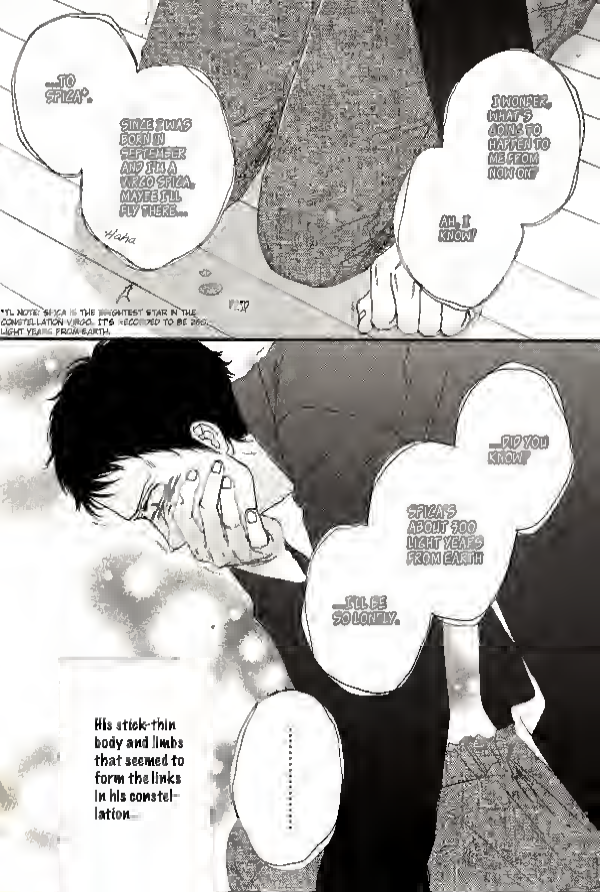
KI-JI!
WHY
IS HIS VOICE NOT IN SYNC WITH HIS MOUTH...?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
...
...
EH?
FLICKER

POOF
AH!!
ARE YOU STILL HERE, OSAKA.
HEY!
CAN YOU HEAR ME, KUSU?
WHAT SHOULD I DO? I CAN'T MOVE AND I'M SO TIRED. IT FEELS LIKE I HAVEN'T SLEPT IN DAYS.
His voice
IS HE STILL HERE?
EH?
KUSU

Was like distant fireworks;
like the extinguishing of a star that had existed hundreds of light years away
CAN YOU HEAR ME,
HEY!...?
WAIT, DON'T RUN AWAY FROM ME... CAN'T YOU HEAR ME,
HEY!?
The voice that I heard much too late,
that strangely muffled, hoarse echo
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I THINK I DIED JUST NOW.
...I GUESS YOU CAN'T HEAR ME....
CLATTER
"Can you hear me?" rang in my ears; he had said it without fail for four days.
dribble

I NEVER EXPECTED MYSELF TO BECOME A GHOST EITHER, THIS TOOK ME BY SURPRISE TOO.
...I'M SORRY FOR SCARING YOU.
Shake
...UH, YOU'RE BACK. I THOUGHT YOU WERE NEVER GOING TO COME BACK.
YOU REALLY CAN AIN'T TO REST THINGS WELL.
Fwish
...K, SI?
...CAN YOU HEAR ME?
BUT GEEZ, I'M AFRAID OF GHOSTS YOU KNOW, TO THINK THAT I'VE BECOME ONE IS...
Hm
AND IT SEEMS YOU CAN'T EVEN HEAR MY VOICE.
I CAN'T MOVE AN INCH NOW THOUGH.
OH, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER FEELING ANY PAIN SO I GUESS IT MUST HAVE DIED ON THE SPOT.
...I'M SO LONELY.
...I WONDER IF ANYONE EVEN TURNED UP FOR MY FUNERAL?
...I BET THEY'VE CREMATED MY BODY BY NOW. I WONDER IF MY MOM IS CRYING?


I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE.
...JUST KIDDING.
I WONDER WHO YOU'LL HAUNT WHEN YOU'RE DEAD?
YEAH. I'M STILL HERE. IT'S ALREADY BEEN THREE DAYS IN A ROW AND I'M STILL CAN'T MOVE.
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I SAW ANYTHING THAT MIGHT EMBARRASS YOU SO DON'T WORRY.
...I'M SORRY. I DON'T KNOW WHY I ENDED UP HERE...
...NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT...
...IT'S BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
All that he had said in four days twinkled once, and disappeared


I WONDER, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME FROM NOW ON?
ALL I KNOW?
...TO SPICA?.
SINCE I WAS BORN IN SEPTEMBER AND I'M A VIRGO SPICA, MAYBE I'LL FLY THERE...
Haha
*1: NOTE: SPICA IS THE BRIGHTEST STAR IN THE CONSTELLATION VIRGO. IT'S ACCORDED TO BE 260... LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH.
...DID YOU KNOW?
SPICA'S ABOUT 200 LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH
...I'LL BE SO LONELY.
His stick-thin body and limbs that seemed to form the links in his constellation...

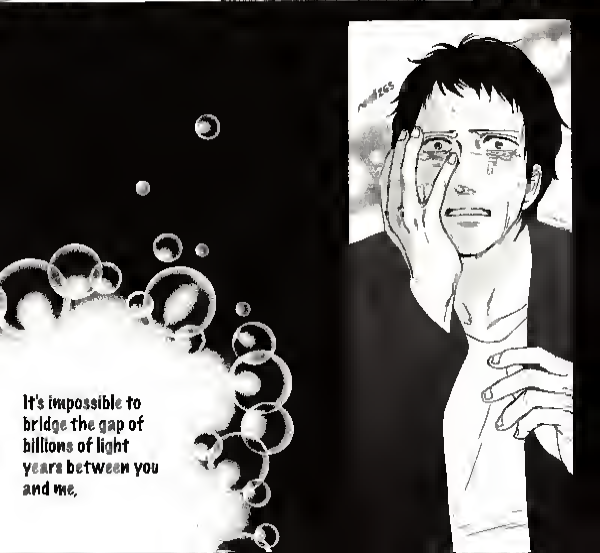
A hoarse, reverberative voice that reached farther than a few billion light years.
AND A GAZE THAT FELT JUST LIKE A LASER BEAM.
AN EXISTENCE THAT WAS LIKE THE BLACK HOLE.
I knew.
I knew that this laser beam was always watching me.
I GUESS YOU REALLY CAN'T HEAR ME...
...KISI.

I knew.
And yet apart from that, I knew nothing more about him.
...MY NAME...
HMM?
AHH.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN THE SAME SEMINAR AS ME NEXT YEAR, AREN'T YOU?
OSAKA, RIGHT?
AH,
!

YEAH I'VE SEEN YOU AROUND IT'S EASY TO PICK YOU OUT BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS IN BLACK
MY NAME'S KIJI
Did you know?
...YEAH,
I KNOW. .
That hoarse, reverberating voice
reaching out to me from a few billion light years away
IT MAY SEEM LIKE IT WISHED THE WORLD IT LOST WOULD END,
AND IT MAY SOUND AS IF IT WERE THE HAPPENING ON ANOTHER STAR FAR, FAR AWAY BUT TO ME, IT HADN'T CHANGED, NOT ONE BIT
...KIJI,
SINCE YOU PROBABLY CAN'T HEAR ME ANYWAY, I MAY AS WELL TELL YOU THIS:

OSA...
I LOVED YOU.
AND I'M SORRY.
AH!
I THINK MY VOICE JUST CAUGHT UP WITH YOU!! CAN YOU HEAR ME, KISU?
EH?!

SILENCE


It's impossible to bridge the gap of billions of light years between you and me,
needless

AH!
I THINK MY VOICE JUST CAUGHT UP WITH YOU!!
CAN YOU HEAR ME, KIJI?!
SPICA!
STARS ☆ SPICA ☆ SPECTRE /END